



Branching Out

Creating Connections to End Sexual Violence

Spring 2016

Volume 10, Issue 1

Changing Seasons...Changing SAS

By Samantha Sustachek



Welcome to the Spring issue of Branching Out! Spring is a season of change and new life, and we certainly have a lot of that going on at Sexual Assault Services right now. I'd like to begin by highlighting some of the changes that have occurred since the Fall issue of Branching Out.

In September, we bid farewell to Katy Adler, longtime SAS staff member and Program Manager. We certainly miss Katy, but we hear she's doing very well in her new role. Shortly after Katy's departure, I was named SAS's new Program Supervisor, and one of my first duties was to hire a replacement for my former role of Family Support Advocate, and in November, Christa Dasher joined SAS in that position (see page 5 for her introduction). SAS has happily been fully staffed since Christa began, and we are pleased to announce that we will soon be adding a new position to our team. Earlier this year, the SAS program received some supplemental funding from our

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to add a Bilingual (Spanish/English) Therapist to our staff. We are in the process of hiring this individual right now, and we can't wait to be able to provide therapy to the Spanish-speaking sexual assault survivors in our community.

Despite many transitions and staffing changes in the last six months, SAS staff has continued to provide important services to the community. We will soon be wrapping up a support group for adult survivors that began in the Fall. As this group comes to a conclusion, a group for adolescent survivors is just beginning. The adolescent group will run through June. In addition to providing these support groups, SAS trained six new Volunteer Advocates in November and will provide another training this month.

In January, SAS partnered with the Wheaton Franciscan Sexual Assault Treatment Center to hold our 5th annual Healing Lights: Giving Hope wine tasting fundraiser. This year's fundraiser was a great success. We had our highest attendance yet, a record-breaking 50/50 raffle, and extremely successful wine sales.

When all was said and done, we raised right around \$9,000 to split between the two programs. Those funds will be very helpful in meeting the needs of the sexual assault survivors in our community in the coming year. Thank you so much to those who were able to attend, donate items, or help out in any way!



As we begin April, we look forward to a busy month full of activities honoring Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). On Wednesday, April 20th at 11:30, SAS, in partnership with our sister program Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN), will host the 2nd annual Seeds of Change luncheon at Infusino's. The event will feature Sammy Rangel as our main speaker and will include the presentation of our 7th annual SAAM awards and 2nd annual Child Abuse Prevention Month award. Tickets are \$25 per person

Cont. on page 6

Inside This Issue

Legislative Update.....	Page 2
Rompiendo la Barrera.....	Page 3
A Closer Look & Program Stats.....	Page 4
New Staff.....	Page 5



Legislative Update

By Vicki Biehn

Our Wisconsin State Legislators have been busy this past session working on many important bills that will directly impact sexual assault survivors and their families. This article is meant to update the readers on some of the great bills that the Wisconsin State Legislature has passed or is expected to pass in the coming weeks.

- **SB-323 or AB-430 (Victim Accompaniment Bill):** This bill has passed the full Senate and Assembly and is expected to be signed into law by Governor Walker. This bill gives victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and child abuse the right to request to be accompanied by a victim service advocate during certain events and proceedings, such as SANE exams, law enforcement interviews, and court proceedings.
- **SB-656 or AB-808:** This bill was signed by Governor Walker on March 24 and prohibits the issuance of citations by law enforcement or University of Wisconsin system student disciplinary actions for underage drinking, to individuals who are victims of sexual assault or certain other crimes, as well as bystanders to those crimes. Victims and bystanders must cooperate with emergency responders when they arrive in order to be exempt from sanctions for underage drinking.
- **Wisconsin Act 121:** This law increases the statutes of limitations for second and third degree sexual assault of an adult (both felony crimes) from 6 to 10 years. By increasing the statute of limitations, this law lengthens the time that an offender can be charged with a criminal offense from 6 to 10 years from the date that the felony was committed.
- **SB-500 or AB-663:** This bill has been passed by the full Senate and Assembly, and makes changes to procedures for providing restitution to victims of crimes. Basically, this bill ensures that victims receive restitution money before other entities get funds from the offender through fees and fines.
- **Wisconsin Act 80:** The so-called "Up-skirting Bill" makes it an invasion of privacy to view, broadcast or record images of certain body parts under or through clothing without consent. This bill is so named, because some individuals have been using technology to invade an individual's privacy and capture images of their private areas.
- **Wisconsin Act 5:** As a requirement of this act, the Department of Justice (DOJ) must make available online a poster to raise awareness about human trafficking as well as a number to call to report trafficking. DOJ must encourage certain businesses and locations to display the poster.
- **SB-377 or AB-652:** This bill has also been passed by both the full Senate and Assembly, and creates a right for a crime victim to receive notice when an offender's release to parole or extended supervision is revoked for violating a condition of release.
- **SB-546 or AB-666:** This bill provides for administrative subpoena for investigating internet crimes against children and creates an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) surcharge. Basically, this bill will create a surcharge on convicted offenders which will fund the activities of task forces on Internet Crimes Against Children.
- **SB-488 or AB-673:** This bill also passed the full Senate and Assembly, and creates a substitute address program to protect the confidentiality of addresses for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking. Under the bill, people who participate in the program submit their actual addresses to the DOJ and receive from DOJ an assigned address that they may use for all personal and official purposes.
- **Wisconsin Act 156:** This legislation makes changes to the procedure for releasing certain violent sex offenders into the community. This bill helps to ensure that no victim will have to live in close proximity to their offender. In addition, if an offender was convicted of a crime against a child, elderly, or disabled person, that offender cannot be placed in close proximity to certain areas, such as parks, nursing homes, schools, and day care centers.

Cont. on page 5

SAS Wish List

- Volunteer Advocates!
- Gift cards/certificates from Target, Office Depot, grocery stores or other discount stores
- Courage to Heal book series
- New clothes for victims to wear when they leave the hospital (t-shirts, sweat pants, underwear, etc.)
- Body lotions & shower gels to be given to victims seen at the hospital
- General art and craft supplies for the children in our counseling program
- Bus tokens so that clients can access our services
- Forever stamps (the kind that do not expire as the rates change)
- Monetary donations are always needed and appreciated



Rompiendo la Barrera

Breaking the Barrier

By Annabell Bustillos

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Engaging Men & Boys, held in Washington DC recently. Much information was shared about many different topics, but one topic that I found interesting and would like to share with you in this article is stalking.

The legal definitions of stalking can vary from one jurisdiction to another but a good working definition of stalking is *a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear*. Stalking can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender and can affect people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

In fact, stalking is very prevalent in the United States. According to Stalking Resource Center, 6.6 million people are stalked in one year in the United States. Research also shows that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime, which caused them to feel fearful or believe that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed. The majority of stalking victims are being stalked by someone they know, and 66% of female victims and 41% of male victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.

While both male and females can be victims of stalking, research from the Stalking Resource Center shows that 76% of femicide victims and 85% of attempted femicide victims were also victims of stalking. Of those victims, 67% had been physically abused by their intimate partner and 89% had been stalked in the 12 months before their murder. These are very scary statistics and can affect a victim of stalking in many ways.

Research has shown that victims suffer a wide range of psychological, physical, occupational, social and general lifestyle effects as a consequence of being stalked. Studies show that 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next, while 29% fear the stalking will never stop. The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is also much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially if the stalking involves being followed or having one's property destroyed. Occupational effects include 1 in 8 employed stalking victims losing time

from work as a result of their victimization, and more than half of those individuals losing 5 days of work or more. Research shows that 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization, affecting them socially.

But what can we do? One thing I learned at the conference is that we can and should start taking stalking seriously. Our society has made stalking somewhat of a joke, with many movies using stalking as a trope for a love story, or the jokes and Memes about stalking we see passed around on social media. Let's start to challenge this thought process and help society see that stalking is truly frightening for its victims.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, so if you know of anyone being stalked please help them contact the police.

—Annabell

*This column was adapted from Stalking resource center- Stalking fact sheet.
http://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/src/stalking-fact-sheet_english.pdf*



Meet Linda!

Hello, my name is Linda Lee and I am currently attending Lakeland College for my Master's in Counseling. I received my undergraduate degree in Theology and I have had the pleasure of being selected as a Counseling Intern at SAS of LSS. What brought me into the field was confirmations from my former clients and supervisor while I was a case manager for a program that worked with county, state, and federal guidelines. I had never imagined that I would go into the counseling world; yet, because of their advice and suggestion I have found myself enjoying it more than I expected. During my interview, I knew that SAS of LSS was a place where I wanted to be and as I continue to work as an intern here I am privileged to be a part of its team. On a more personal note, I have two lovely children and a wonderful husband.

—Linda



A Closer Look

By Carla Pratt

It is most common when talking about sexual abuse or assault to default to using the pronoun “she” when talking about the survivor and “he” when talking about the perpetrator. Even those of us who work with survivors and have ongoing training surrounding sexual assault/abuse and who are very aware of the fact that men are often victimized and that women can sexually offend seem to return to these default pronouns unless we are making a real effort to be inclusive. I was recently at an international sexual assault and domestic violence conference the subtitle of which was “engaging men and boys” and I became aware that in most of our breakout sessions “she” was the victim and “he” was the perpetrator. While it is true that statistics support that women are more often victims than men (1 in 3 vs. 1 in 6) and that men are most often perpetrator, this “default” to thinking of victim and perpetrator as gender specific is not helpful when trying to engage men who have been assaulted in the journey of finding support from professionals and/or others who have experienced similar situations.

Our tendency as a culture to minimize the truth about how often sexual assault happens can have devastating effects on victims/survivors. It is common knowledge that assaults are underreported because victims feel as though they will not be believed, they will somehow be blamed, or “nothing” will happen as a result of their report. With the tendency for our society to believe that males “are not” or “cannot” be sexually victimized, how difficult must it be to report and seek help if one is a male survivor? The concepts and beliefs about what it means to be masculine or a “true man” can provide barriers to male survivors when it comes to understanding victimization and what it means for their identity as male.

One of the great resources for male survivors is an organization called “1 In 6” which provides support and resources for male survivors of sexual assault/abuse. Their website 1in6.org has a lot of information for survivors and those seeking to educate themselves about male sexual assault. They provide a weekly on-line support group, a list of books about the subject, facts about sexual assault of males and personal stories through the Bristlecone Project.

The Bristlecone Project is a project that engages male survivors of sexual abuse or assault to tell their stories of abuse and, more importantly, their stories of survival and success.

The following is taken from the website 1in6.org and provides information about the vision and purpose of the project:

The Vision: A mosaic of photographs and words that portray the reality and hope of men who were sexually abused as children.

The Focus: The present, not the past. Who each man is. What defines him. What is the focus of his life. Each man will be portrayed through a series of photographs, a brief written portrait, and his own voice.

The Purpose: To portray this reality — who we are now, living meaningful and dignified lives — to the many men who may feel isolated and stigmatized by what happened to them. And to portray this reality to whole communities through the Bristlecone web site and public exhibitions, providing positive, hopeful role models of men who have faced their childhood experiences and who learned to live healthier, happier lives

It is my belief that if we as a culture hope to eradicate the unjust and devastating crime of sexual violence, we need to understand the reality of the diversity of victims. While I in no way mean to diminish the reality and effects of sexual assault/abuse on women and the reality that women are more often victims than men, the facts about male victims must become part of our awareness. Please check out the website 1in6.org and in particular, the Bristlecone project

—Carla



SAS Program Statistics July—December 2015

Crisis Line Calls.....	39
Racine Hospital Visits.....	36
Burlington Hospital Visits.....	5
Legal Advocacy Sessions.....	16
New Counseling Clients.....	19
Counseling Sessions.....	441
Support Group Sessions.....	9
Community Presentations.....	27
CAC Appointments.....	73



Meet Christa!

Hello, my name is Christa Dasher. I am the newest member of the SAS team. I was hired on in November to fill the open Family Advocate position. The main job I perform, in this position, is responding to appointments at the Child Advocacy Center. At these appointments, I met with the non-offending caregivers to provide advocacy, information and resource referrals. In addition to providing advocacy at the CAC, I help staff our 24-hour crisis line and hospital response team. I am also involved in helping train new volunteer advocates and facilitating gatherings for current advocates.

Prior to coming to work as a staff member at SAS, I was a volunteer advocate for SAS for five years. During this time I found working with survivors and their support people to be very rewarding and something I enjoyed. So, when I found that SAS was looking for a new Family Advocate I was excited to apply and thought it must be meant to be. I was offered the job, and here I am!

Some information about me... I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In the past, I have worked as a nurse primarily in the mental health field. The settings I have worked in have included working with children and adolescents at Wheaton Franciscan Inpatient unit, then for a private practice Psychiatrist, and finally a mental health residential facility. I plan to bring this knowledge and experience to my position as Family Advocate at SAS.

If you have any questions about the Racine County Child Advocacy Center or need help locating resources for a family, please feel free to contact me at 262-619-1634 Ext 12 or by email at christa.dasher@lsswis.org.

—Christa



Cont. from page 2

Sexual Assault Services (SAS) is pleased that these bills have become or will soon be the law in Wisconsin. Many of these bills work to create a climate where survivors will feel more comfortable coming forward to report these sexual crimes, as well as work to create a safer environment after survivors report the crime. These bills will also help to keep victims engaged in the criminal justice process and therefore more offenders may be held accountable for their crimes. If offenders are held accountable for their crimes, all of us will be safer. This article is a very general update, so if you would like more detailed information on this legislation or on the legislative process, please contact Vicki Biehn at 262-619-1634 or vbiehn@lsswis.org or Dominic Holt from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault at 608-257-1516 or dominich@wcasa.org.

--Vicki



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Member Benefits

SAS was recently made aware of some lesser known benefits for customers of Thrivent Financial. Thrivent offers financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, and more. Customers of Thrivent, at no cost to themselves, have the opportunity to donate money through Thrivent to the charitable organization of their choice. There are two separate programs that make donations: Choice Dollars and Action Team. It is our understanding that Choice Dollars can be designated to go to the program of your choice through the Thrivent website. This money goes to support an organization as a whole. Action Team is money that Thrivent gives to help cover the cost of an event (such as a fundraiser or community awareness activity). Again, these benefits are available to all Thrivent customers at no cost to them! So if you are a Thrivent customer, and you would like to designate your Choice Dollars or Action Team funds to support Lutheran Social Services, we would be extremely appreciative. If you have any questions about this program or want to know more about designating LSS as the beneficiary of Thrivent's generosity, give us a call. We will do the best we can to assist you. Thank you, as always, for your support!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



SCAN Program Helps Kids Recognize Child Abuse

A hand goes up, and a child quickly begins to talk about things happening at home, asking: "Is this child abuse?" The innocence behind the question and the child's willingness to ask it, seemingly unaware of what they are sharing with the whole classroom, underscores the importance of educating children at a young age about child abuse so they know when to ask for help.

SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) was developed with this goal, and for more than 30 years, it has visited classrooms in Racine County, teaching children what abuse is and what to do if they see it or experience it themselves. Above all, SCAN wants kids to know that abuse is never the fault of the child. Last year, SCAN held sessions at 97 different public and private schools in Racine and Kenosha counties, and talked to nearly 11,000 kids.

Every year, SCAN has children who share something that results in a formal report being filed. Many times, they tell the SCAN educator something they won't even tell their teacher. In one SCAN session, a seven-year old child told the SCAN presenter about long-term sexual abuse by two family members. The child had kept this from other close family members, school staff and other trusted adults. The information presented by SCAN, as well as the SCAN facilitator's compassionate demeanor, taught this child that what was happening was abusive and was not the child's fault, and it gave the child the courage to follow through and tell the secret.

And that is the hope – that children recognize when something is wrong and tell a responsible adult about it so someone can step in. SCAN doesn't always get to see the final result of their presentations, but just knowing that a child like this seven-year old would no longer be dealing with this alone is enough.

SCAN was founded because of efforts by the Racine County Child Abuse Committee to stem maltreatment of children. It started with simple puppet shows in 1983 presented to kindergarteners in the Racine Unified School District. In 1991, LSS took over the program and has since expanded it to include parochial and private schools, preschools and daycare centers throughout Racine County as well as in second grade classes in the Kenosha Unified School District. SCAN's curriculum includes sessions for five different age groups: preschool, kindergarteners and children in second, fourth and six grades.

Please follow the link below to donate online or mail charitable contributions to the SCAN office at 1220 Mound Avenue #304, Racine, WI 53404.

<http://www.lsswis.org/LSS/Services/Parenting/Child-Abuse-Neglect-Education.htm>

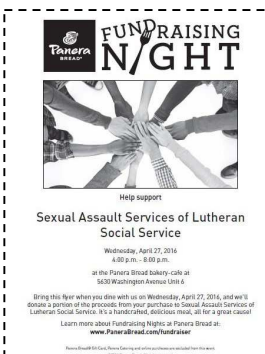
Questions about how to get more involved? Call Karen Fetherston at 262-619-1633.

SCAN is funded by the United Way of Racine County and the United Way of Kenosha County as well as through private donations from local churches, schools, individuals foundations, and businesses.



Cont. from page 1

and must be purchased by Friday, April 15th. Give us a call at the office (262-619-1634) if you have questions or would like to purchase tickets. We hope you will join us and show your support!



SAS will also be the beneficiary of a Panera Bread fundraising night this month. On April 27th from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., you can dine at Panera, and a portion of the proceeds will be given to our program. Just show our flyer (attached to the same email as this newsletter) and we'll get credit for your order. You get to enjoy a delicious meal, and we enjoy the financial support. Bring a friend!

Finally, on Wednesday, April 27th, SAS and other local programs and agencies will recognize Denim Day, a day to wear jeans for a purpose. Denim Day is an international campaign designed to raise awareness of sexual assault and victim blaming. The movement began in 1999 in Italy when a woman was raped by her driving instructor. The perpetrator's conviction was overturned, with Italy's highest court reasoning that because the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the rapist remove them, thereby implying consent. This ruling motivated allies worldwide to dedicate a day to wearing jeans, highlighting misconceptions around sexual assault, and honoring survivors. Some workplaces request donations from their employees in exchange for wearing jeans on Denim Day and then gift those donations to their local rape crisis center. SAS has been the grateful recipient of such donations in the past, but whether or not it involves a donation to SAS, I hope you will join us in not only wearing denim on April 27th as a visible sign of your support for survivors, but also in spreading the message of victim support and offender accountability that it symbolizes.

--Sam



Sexual Assault Services
1220 Mound Ave., Suite 304
Racine, WI 53404

Contact Us!

SAS Racine Office
1220 Mound Ave. Suite 304
Racine, WI 53404
262-619-1634

SAS Burlington Office
480 S. Pine St.
Burlington, WI 53105
262-763-6226 Ext. 109

24 Hour Crisis Line: 262-637-SAFE (7233)
Spanish Crisis Line: 262-424-3134
Website: <http://www.sasoflss.org>

Stay Connected!



Join our News and Events email update list! Would you like to receive information on upcoming SAS events and volunteer opportunities? Email Samantha Sustachek at ssustachek@lsswis.org with "SAS news and events" in the subject line and she will include you in all SAS news and events related emails.

Sexual Assault Services seeks to create a safe and compassionate environment to help promote the healing of sexual assault survivors and their support people.

Sexual Assault Services is funded by United Way of Racine County, Victims of Crime Act grant, Sexual Assault Victim Services grant, Violence Against Women Act grant, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Racine Dominican Mission Fund, the Racine Community Foundation, the Aurora Better Together fund and the support of generous local donors.